
BUZZ
SATOU SAORI
SATOU YUUKA
BUZZ
IT'S FINALLY HAPPENED.
I'VE BEEN PUT IN THE SAME CLASS AS HER.
氷糖プレパラート
ふかさくえみ
Presented by EMI FUKASAKU
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO...
chatter
chatter
slump

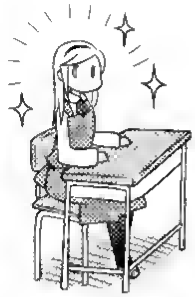

Rock
Candy
Praparat
ふかさくえみ
Presented by EMI FUKASAKU


BACK THEN, WE WERE BOTH SCAREDY-CATS.
Y-you hear that too!?
SAA-CHAN, DO YOU HEAR A WEIRD NOISE?
BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN YEARS.
YUUKA WAS MY FIRST FRIEND EVER.
THEN ONE DAY, WE REALIZED...
JUMP
PACE
PACE
PACE
FLOAT
AND ODDLY ENOUGH, IT WAS EXACTLY WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER THAT INEXPLICABLE THINGS SEEMED TO KEEP HAPPENING.
THE CAUSES OF THOSE INEXPLICABLE PHENOMENA WOULD ALL APPEAR PLAINLY BEFORE OUR EYES.
IF WE HELD EACH OTHER'S HANDS,


THAT'S NOT IT, YUKKA.
I COULD NEVER HATE YOU...
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
AFTER THE SHOCK OF THAT MOMENT,
IT BECAME IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO BE NEAR ONE ANOTHER.
WE COULD COMMUNICATE, BUT WE COULDN'T SEE EACH OTHER.
THIS HAS BEEN THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US THESE PAST FEW YEARS.
Get there!
Express Mail
BUT WE WERE DETERMINED NOT TO BE FORCED APART ENTIRELY,
SO, THOUGH WE COULDN'T MEET, WE BEGAN CONSTANTLY EXCHANGING LETTERS AND E-MAILS.
SLIDE
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I HOPE SHE'S NOT HERE YET. I HOPE OUR EYES DON'T MEET...
WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO AVOID EACH OTHER IN SCHOOL,
SINCE WE WERE ALWAYS IN SEPARATE CLASSES, BUT NOW...


MORNING!
G-GOOD MORNING!
Who's that again?
Familiar-looking face
Chatter
Chatter
Scoot
SLIDING
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE


COME TO THINK OF IT, JUST HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE I ACTUALLY SAW HER IN PERSON?
AHH, THIS IS EVEN MORE NERVE-WRACKING THAN I IMAGINED. CALM DOWN!



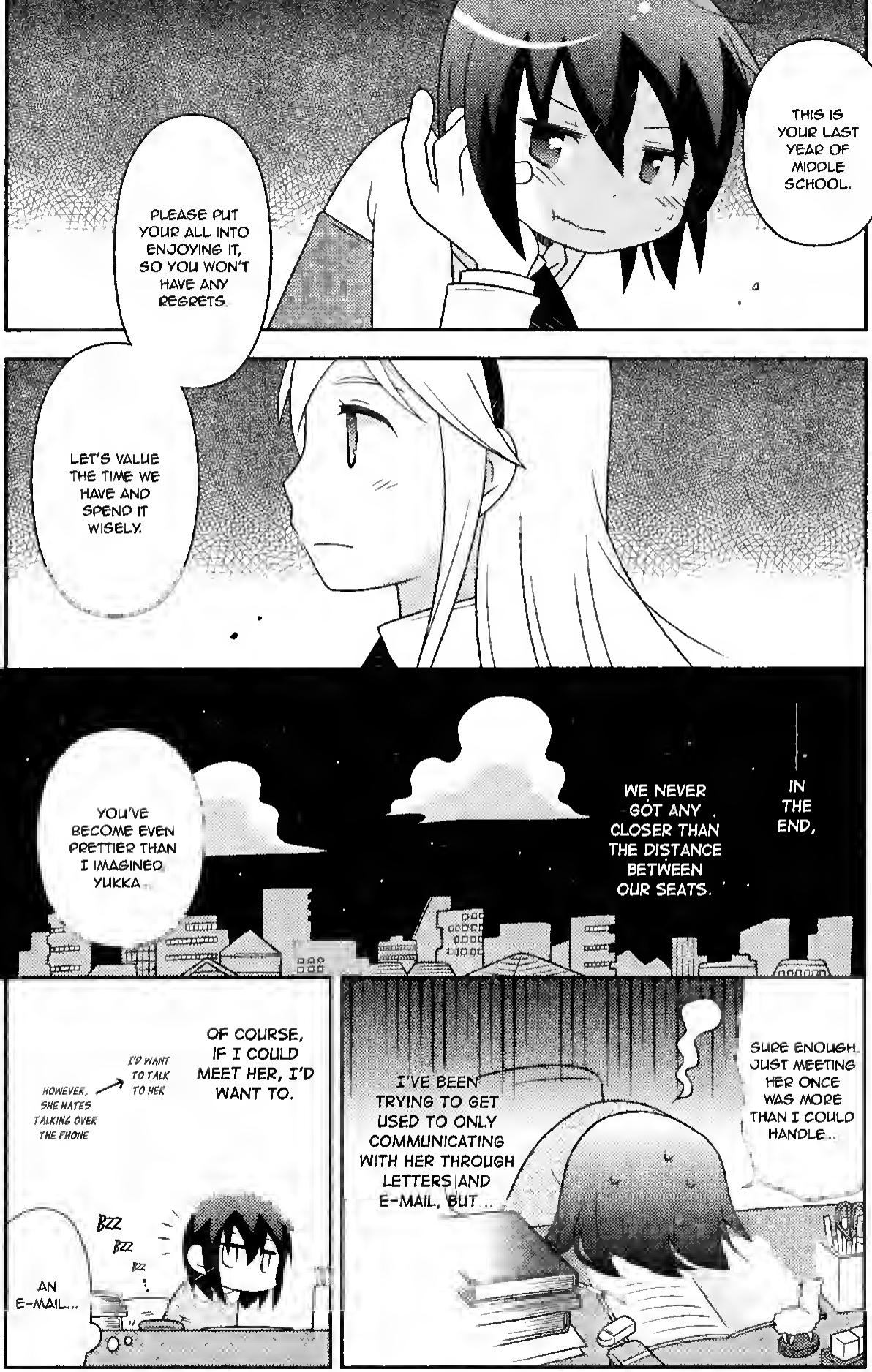
THERE SHE IS


AND SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HER HAIR ACCESSORIES AND EVERYTHING...
BUT SHE ALREADY TOLD ME SHE HAD GROWN HER HAIR OUT.
AND YET STILL...
AND WAS A LITTLE TALLER THAN AVERAGE,


AHHHHHH!!!


I'M YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER, HAZUKI.
HOPEFULLY YOU'VE HAD THE CHANCE TO SEE ALL YOUR CLASSMATES' FACES.


SEEING HER IN THE FLESH IS SCARY!!
CAN I REALLY SURVIVE AN ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR LIKE THIS!?
Haa
Haa

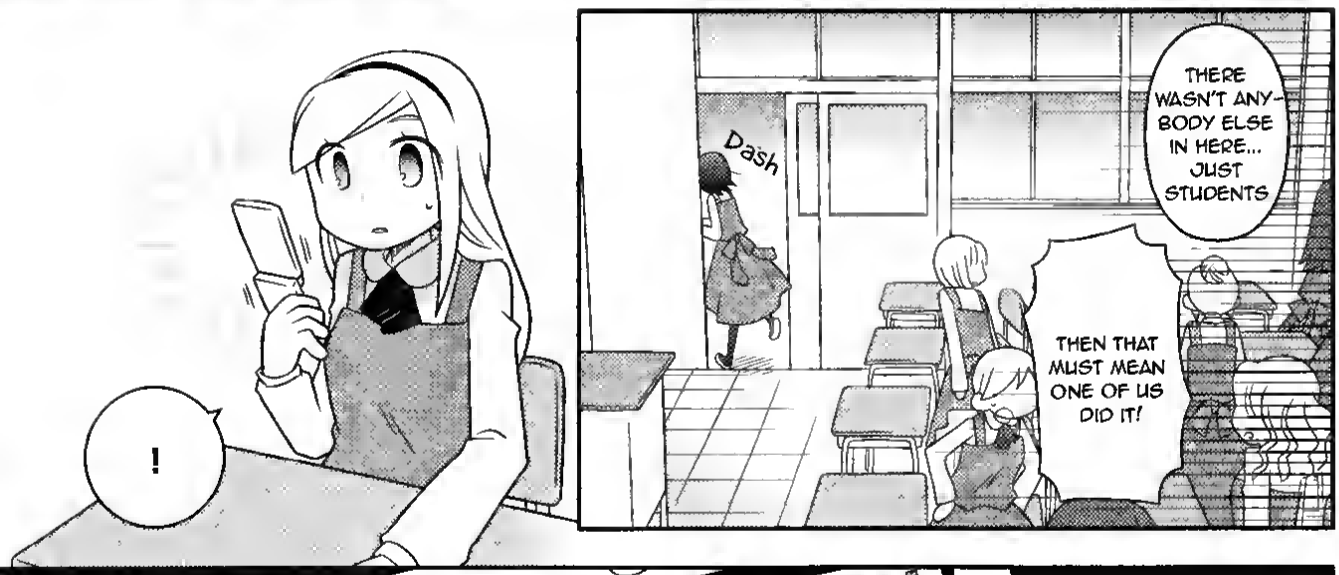

THIS IS YOUR LAST YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
PLEASE PUT YOUR ALL INTO ENJOYING IT, SO YOU WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS.
LET'S VALUE THE TIME WE HAVE AND SPEND IT WISELY.
IN THE END,
WE NEVER GOT ANY CLOSER THAN THE DISTANCE BETWEEN OUR SEATS.
YOU'VE BECOME EVEN PRETTIER THAN I IMAGINED, YUKKA...
SURE ENOUGH, JUST MEETING HER ONCE WAS MORE THAN I COULD HANDLE...
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET USED TO ONLY COMMUNICATING WITH HER THROUGH LETTERS AND E-MAIL, BUT...
OF COURSE, IF I COULD MEET HER, I'D WANT TO.
I'D WANT TO TALK TO HER
HOWEVER, SHE HATES TALKING OVER THE PHONE
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
AN E-MAIL...

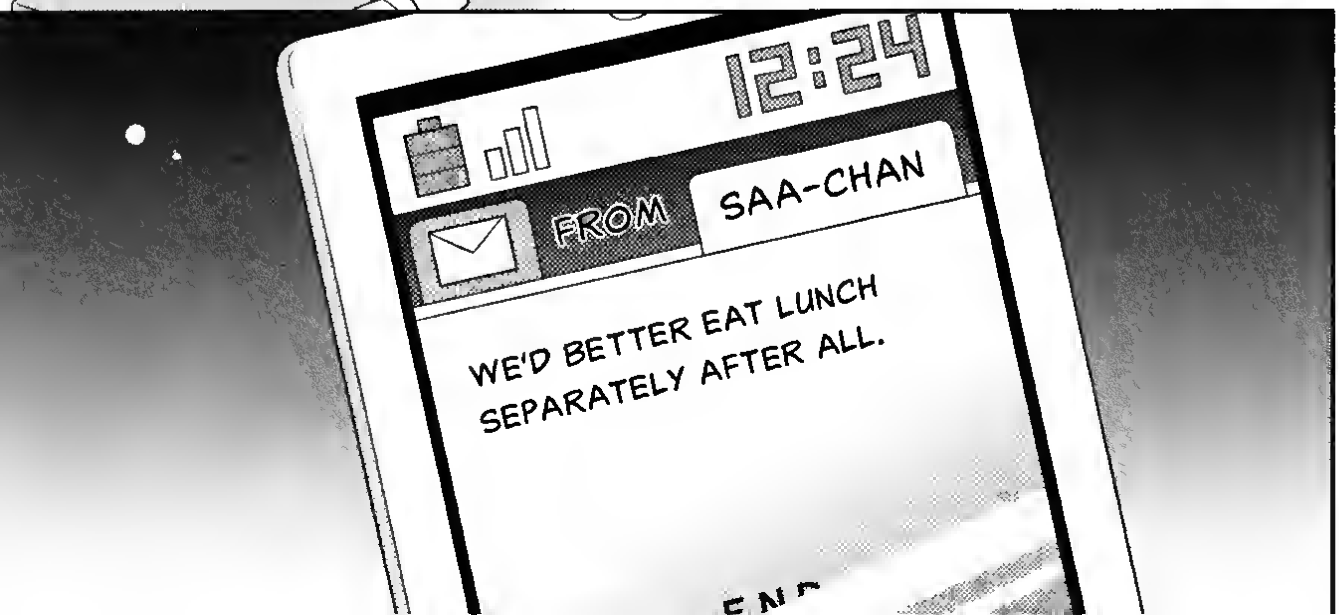

Satou
#1
#2
SINCE IT WAS CONFUSING TO BOTH CALL EACH OTHER "SATOU-SAN,"
WE MUSTERED UP THE COURAGE, AND USED OUR PERSONAL NAMES.
WE STARTED BECOMING COMFORTABLE USING NICKNAMES WITH EACH OTHER
DUE TO OUR EXTREMELY COMMON SURNAME.
INCOMING MAIL
from YUKKA
SAA-CHAN, I WAS HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO SEE YOU TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE.
YUKKA...
I WONDER IF EVEN NOW, IF WE GET TOO CLOSE TO EACH OTHER, THE SAME THING WILL HAPPEN AGAIN?
—END—
brr brr brr brr
!
INCOMING MAIL
21 : 05
WHY DON'T WE TEST IT OUT?
候補選択
閉じる
TAP
TAP
21 : 10
INCOMING MAIL
from YUKKA
SHOULD WE TRY EATING LUNCH TOGETHER TOMORROW?
—END—
I NEED TO MAKE A LUNCH FOR MYSELF!
FOUR THIRTY!?
MOM!!
WAKE ME UP AT 4:30 TOMORROW MORNING!
Thump
T-hump
THAT'S RIGHT...

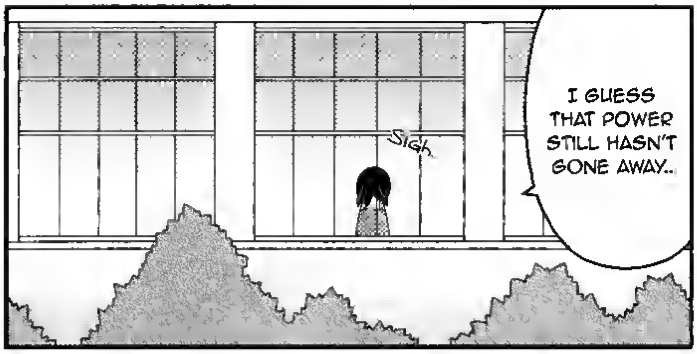

You're pretty naive to expect anything more than elaborate on such short notice!
MOM
WE ENDED UP GOING WITH A PRETTY RUN-OF-THE-MILL LINEUP...
DRE—AD
Karaage (from freezer)
Butter-fried spinach (from freezer)
Fried rice with the sad remains of a failed octopus-sausage mixed in
Tamagoyaki (just barely qualifies)
Plum tomatoes (Saori was in charge of the color arrangement)
Red-leaf lettuce (shredded and nothing more)
Sweet red kidney beans (right out of the can)
FOR ALL WE KNOW, THAT STRANGE POWER
COULD HAVE DISAPPEARED LONG AGO!
「SHOULD WE MOVE OUR DESKS TOGETHER FOR LUNCH? OR WOULD YOU RATHER EAT ON THE ROOF OR SOMEWHERE?」
OH YEAH...!
I'VE ALWAYS EATEN BY MYSELF, SO I DON'T REALLY HAVE A CLUE HOW THIS WORKS...
AGH—HHH!
trot
trot
WILL SHE SAY IT'S TASTY...?
tap
tap

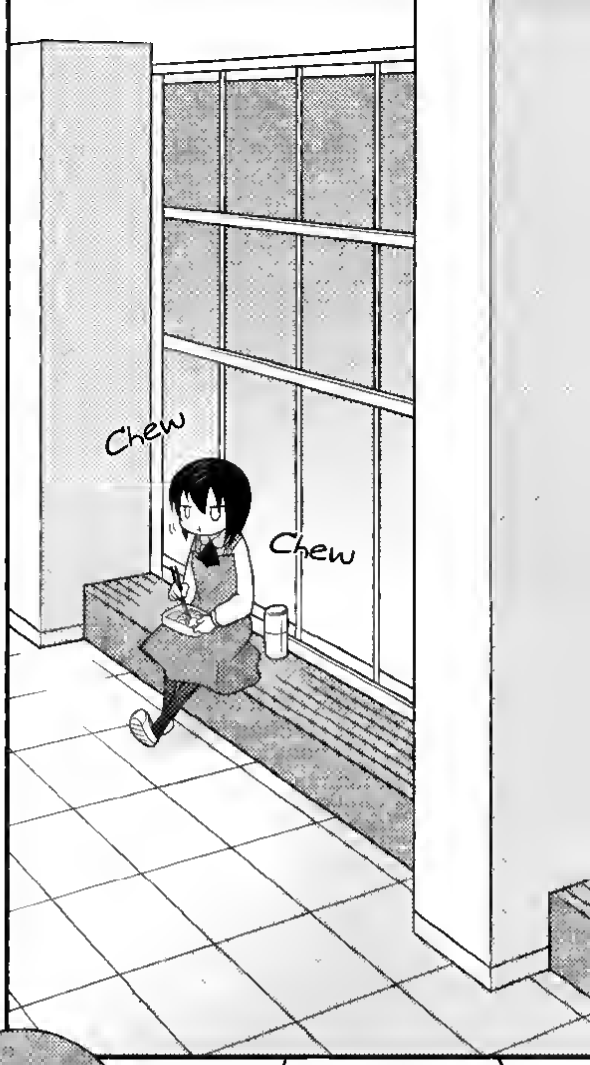

HEY, WHO WAS IT!?
Flutter
Flutter
WHO DID THIS TO MY DESK!?
Murmur...
HUH!?
MY POCKET MIRROR'S GONE TOO!
BARREN
SOMBODY ATE MY LUNCH!
ALL MY PENS ARE UNCAP-PED!
BA-THUMP
RIGHT AT THAT MOMENT...
I HEARD IT.
INCOMING MAIL
YUKKA
HEY, DO YOU THINK THAT WAS...
-END-
Mutter
DID ANY-BODY SEE SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS IN THE ROOM?
Mutter
Mutter

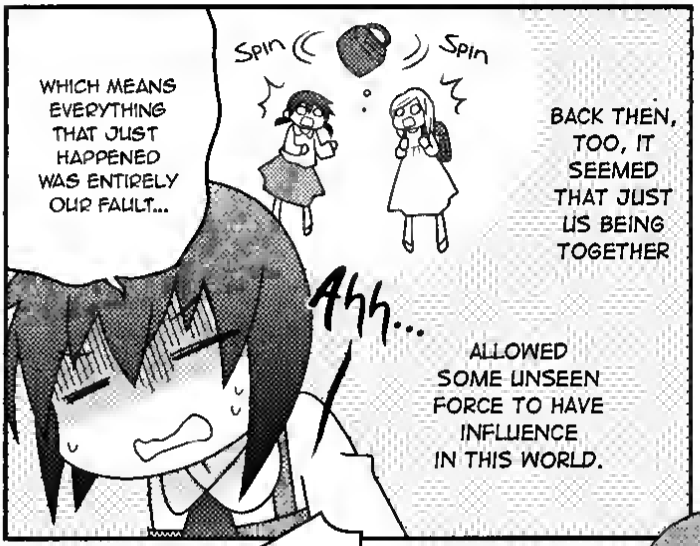

A VOICE THAT CLEARLY DIDN'T BELONG TO ANY OF THE GIRLS IN CLASS.
Ba-thump
WHAT AN EXQUISITE BEAUTY!
I CAN TOUCH THIS... AND THIS...
AH, HOW LOVELY!


!
Dash
THERE WASN'T ANYBODY ELSE IN HERE... JUST STUDENTS
THEN THAT MUST MEAN ONE OF US DID IT!


12:24
FROM SAA-CHAN
WE'D BETTER EAT LUNCH SEPARATELY AFTER ALL.


Sigh
I GUESS THAT POWER STILL HASN'T GONE AWAY..


Chew
Chew


Spin
Spin
WHICH MEANS EVERYTHING THAT JUST HAPPENED WAS ENTIRELY OUR FAULT...
Ahh...
BACK THEN, TOO, IT SEEMED THAT JUST US BEING TOGETHER
ALLOWED SOME UNSEEN FORCE TO HAVE INFLUENCE IN THIS WORLD.


WAIT, WAIT.
WAIT!
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
AH MAN! WHY'D WE HAVE TO END UP IN THE SAME STUPID CLASS...


Sparkle
Sparkle
Oogh...


ACK!!
PANT
PANT
LET'S DO A SIDE-DISH EXCHANGE!


TH-THIS LUNCH?
NO WAY! IT'S JUST THROWN TOGETHER!
TURN
BUT SAA-CHAN, YOU WORKED HARD TO MAKE THAT LUNCH, DIDN'T YOU?
N-NO, WE CAN'T DO THAT!
THEN WHAT ARE THOSE DARK SPOTS UNDER YOUR EYES?
A-ALL I WANTED..
WAS TO HAVE A NORMAL LUNCH TOGETHER WITH YOU, YUKKA.
TO TALK WITH YOU FACE-TO-FACE.


YOU AND I WILL JUST NEVER BE ABLE TO...
BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
NOTHING'S CHANGED FROM WHEN WE WERE LITTLE.
I WONDER ABOUT THAT
IMPUD...
!?
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE STUBBORNLY HARD-WORKING, BUT KIND, WITH A STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY
EH? WHAT?
AND THAT'S WHY I THINK...
AS LONG AS I'M TOGETHER WITH YOU, I'LL BE FINE.
I KNOW HOW YOU'VE CHANGED. I KNOW YOU'RE MUCH MORE IMPUDENT THAN YOU LOOK
MAYBE WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN FOREVER,
BUT WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING AT EACH OTHER'S LETTERS AND MESSAGES.


YOU'RE RELIABLE, AND COURAGEOUS, AND...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S MUCH MORE STRONG-WILLED THAN YOU LOOK.
IF WE'RE GOING DOWN THAT ROAD...
WH-
NO MATTER WHAT APPEARS.
I KNOW A LOT MORE ABOUT TAKAO NOW THAN I DID THEN.
WE'RE NOT THE SAME AS THE FRIGHTENED CHILDREN THAT COULD ONLY COWER IN FEAR.
I SEE
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.


WE FINALLY GOT TO SPEAK FACE-TO-FACE,
AND I STARTED GETTING QUARREL-SOME FOR NO REASON.
THIS ISN'T HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE.
SAA-CHAN...
!?
BEND
AHHHHHHHH GEEZ!
I'M REALLY SORRY!


THE THINGS WE CAN'T SEE UNLESS WE'RE TOGETHER


ARE A LITTLE FUN IN THEIR OWN WAY, AREN'T THEY?

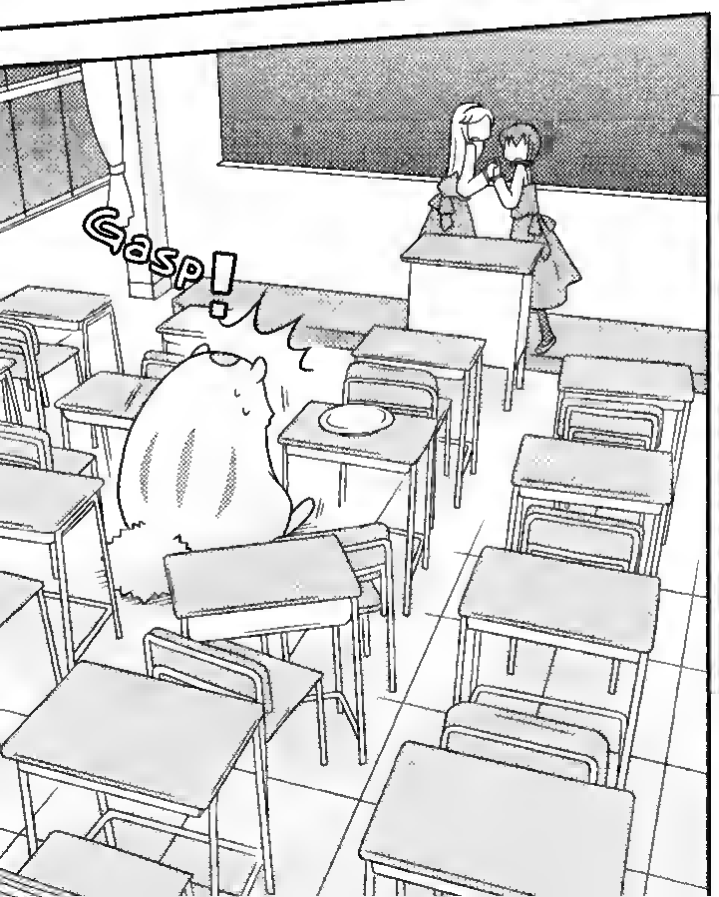

Let's hold hands.


THE NEXT DAY, AFTER CLASSES WERE OVER,
WE SET OUT TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH BEHIND THE INCIDENT IN THE CLASS-ROOM.
Are we really going to draw it out with a trap like that?
If nothing comes, I'll just eat the trap
Those are top-quality dangos from the shopping arcade
BA-THUMP
IT'S HERE!
Float
Float
THAT PROVERB ONLY SAYS THE MOUSE BITES THE CAT, NOT THAT IT LIVES TO SEE ANOTHER DAY.
DESPAIR MAKES A LIONHEART OF THE COWARD
SCRAMBLE
Even a puny mouse, when it's cornered, can bite its way out of the cat's clutches and live to see another day!
Isn't that right!?
We've got this!
TWITCH
Are... you all right?
I'm fine!
Shake
Shake
MAYBE WE'D BETTER NOT


THIS IS NOTHING.


NOT FOR US, NOT ANYMORE...


BA
Chew
Chew

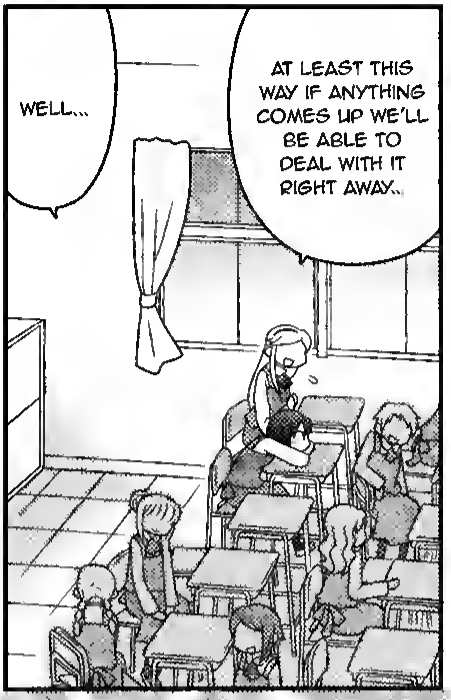

Gasp!

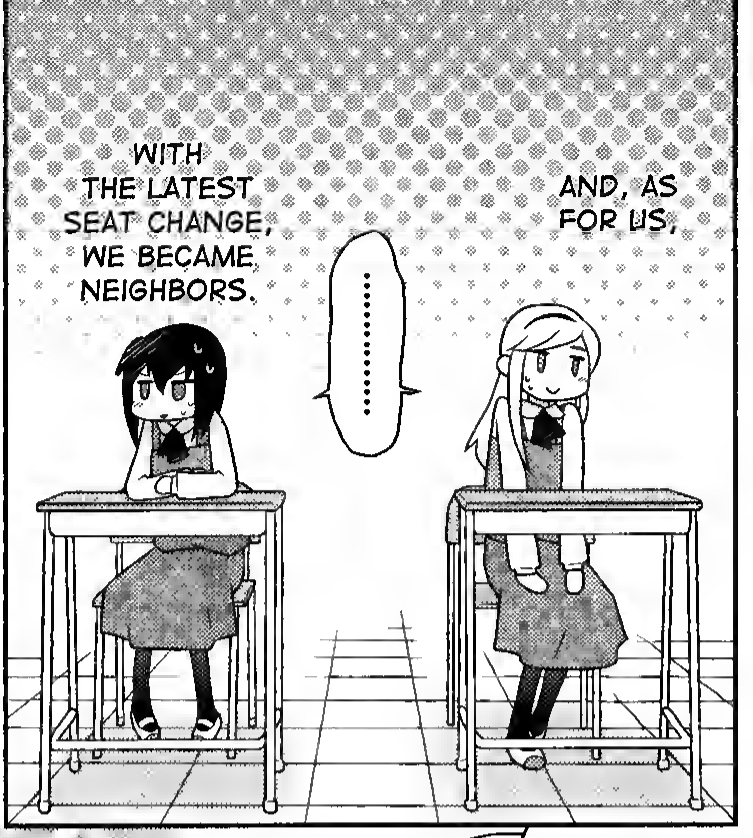


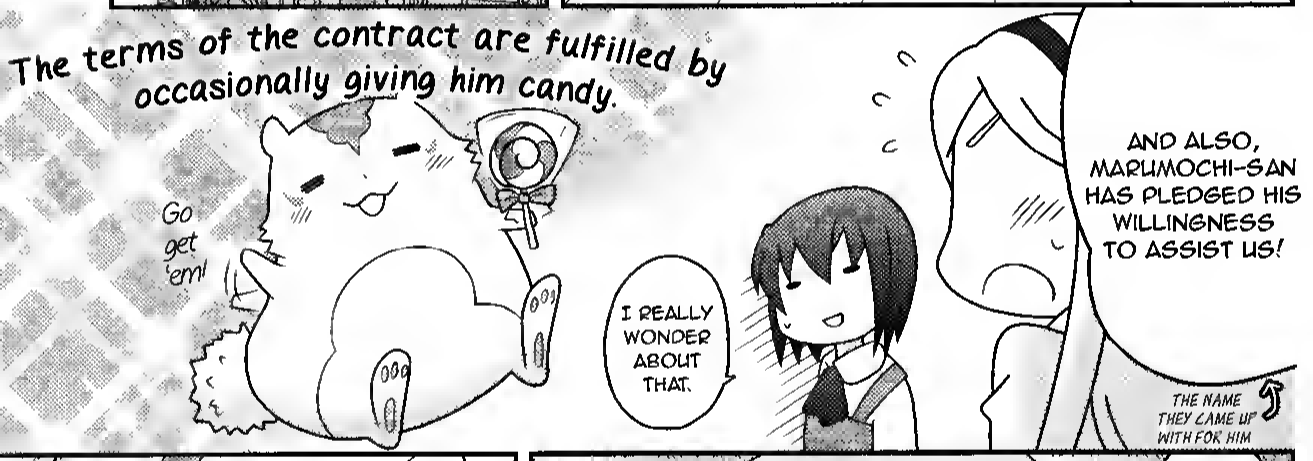

SO IT WAS DUE TO YOUR TWO HONORED PRESENCES THAT I SUDDENLY BECAME ABLE TO TOUCH THINGS ..
Bow Bow
SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU TROUBLE...
NO. IT IS I WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE. I SEEM TO HAVE CAUSED AN UPROAR.
SO IT WAS YOU THAT MESSED UP THE CLASS-ROOM AND ATE THAT GIRL'S LUNCH...
YES, IT WAS TRULY A DELICACY
I couldn't help it. I'm sorry
I'M GLAD IT WAS SOME-ONE WILLING TO LISTEN TO REASON.
YOU KNOW,
I MIGHT BE JUMPING THE GUN, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY RIGHT NOW.
GO AHEAD AND SAY IT.
NO.
DESPITE WHAT WE THOUGHT, IT WASN'T EVEN REMOTELY SCARY.


spin
We can spend as much time together as we want now!
NEXT TIME WE'LL GO SOMEWHERE FUN.
M-ME TOO.
THERE ARE ACTUALLY A TON OF PLACES I'VE WANTED TO GO TO WITH YOU.
CLOTHES STORES, VARIETY SHOPS,
AMUSEMENT PARKS, THE MOVIES...
OR JUST WANDERING AROUND WITH NO PLAN AT ALL!


EVENTUALLY,
3-C
THE CONCLUSION WAS REACHED BY OUR CLASS THAT THE MYSTERIOUS INCIDENT IN THE CLASSROOM
HAD BEEN THE WORK OF SOME WILD ANIMAL.
UNDOCU-MENTED SPECIES!?
THERE ARE LOTS AND LOTS OF THINGS WE NEED TO DO!


WELL...
AT LEAST THIS WAY IF ANYTHING COMES UP WE'LL BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH IT RIGHT AWAY.

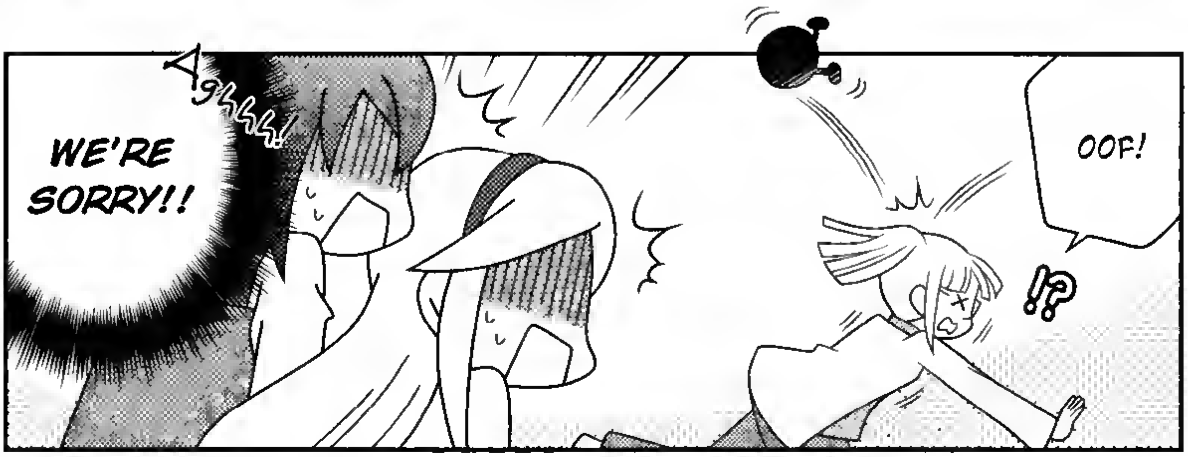

WITH THE LATEST SEAT CHANGE, WE BECAME NEIGHBORS.
AND, AS FOR US,
.....


The terms of the contract are fulfilled by occasionally giving him candy.
Go get 'em!
I REALLY WONDER ABOUT THAT.
AND ALSO, MARUMOCHI-SAN HAS PLEDGED HIS WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST US!
THE NAME THEY CAME UP WITH FOR HIM


MY ANXIETY STILL HASN'T GONE AWAY, BUT...


IT'S ODD.
WELL, ALL THAT ASIDE,
I'M GLAD TO BE SITTING NEXT TO YOU!
Jab


I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL EXCITED ABOUT WHAT'S TO COME.
I'M GLAD TOO.


Aggggh!
WE'RE SORRY!!
OOF!
!?

End

Rock Candy Praparat

By: Fukasaku Emi

Raws: WeatheredPeach
Translator: Gulf Standard
Editor: musicgod96
QC: Kari

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